

Manufacturers should also pursue technology to develop "smart" or "personalized" guns. Although there is no such working weapon that uses this technology now, there are plans by some manufacturers to explore the development of smart guns that recognize their owners through fingerprints, radio emissions or skin conductivity. The NRA and other gun manufacturers, such as Berretta U.S.A. Corp, are opposed to the development of smart gun technology, because they believe it would lead to mandatory safety standards. Yet, personalization concepts that allow only the authorized user access to his firearm, are sure to decrease the number of fatal unintentional injuries, homicides and suicides.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is capable of monitoring firearms, just as they review baby cribs, hair dryers, basketballs, even toy guns, and the thousands of other products manufactured in the United States. But until Congress amends the Consumer Product Safety Act and revokes this special privilege given to firearms manufacturers, guns manufactured in the United States are unlikely to include even basic safety mechanisms.●

#### SUPPORTING S. 1010—THE MEDICAL INNOVATION TAX CREDIT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I would like to give my support to the Medical Innovation Tax Credit Act, sponsored by my good friend, Senator JEFFORDS.

Our medical schools and teaching hospitals are the backbone for innovation in American medicine. As sites for vital human clinical trials, these medical institutions provide a superior training ground for our nation's health care professionals, functioning as centers for the development of innovative medical technologies, treatments and medicines.

Yet, Mr. President, there has been an alarming decline in the utilization of these superior medical facilities for clinical trials. Due to changes within the health care marketplace, our medical facilities have come under increasing cost pressures, driving up the costs associated with conducting clinical trials at these facilities. Currently, it is more expensive for companies to perform clinical trials at teaching hospitals than at commercial research organizations.

Mr. President, the Medical Innovation Tax Credit Act is integral to the continued success of our nation's status as a world leader in the development of medical advances. This legislation would enhance the flow of private-sector funds into our non-profit medical institutions by providing incentives for companies to perform more clinical trials at these institutions. The 20 percent medical innovation tax credit would help level the current cost

differential and the resulting influx of funds would ease some of the financial pressures our medical institutions are experiencing.

I urge all of my colleagues to send a strong message to our nation's medical institutions and health care professionals, that we will continue working to find ways to enhance and strengthen our valuable research program. To this end, it is essential that the Senate support the Medical Innovation Tax Credit Act.●

#### PIONEER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my warmest congratulations to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Viborg, SD.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital is celebrating 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of Viborg and the surrounding area. It is an outstanding example of continued excellence in the delivery of health care services to rural South Dakota.

In an era when the high cost of medical care has driven a wedge between the patient and the provider, small, rural hospitals like Pioneer Memorial Hospital remind us of the true ethic of medical care; compassion, commitment and dedication to those in need. There is no reward great enough for the hard work and long hours that the staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital have sacrificed on the behalf of others. They have brought into the world the newborn babies of friends and neighbors and cared for those who have lived long and noble lives. Perhaps most importantly, they should be recognized for the hand that they extended to those whom they did not know but reached out to in times of need.

Therefore, it is with great honor that I recognize Pioneer Memorial Hospital for its dedication to service and excellence in providing quality medical care to Viborg and the surrounding area. I applaud the efforts of every individual involved with the hospital throughout the years and offer my best wishes for another 40 years of service and excellence.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PHIL PETRIK

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring recognition to a special Montanan, Phil Petrik. Phil is a commercial pilot in Sidney, Montana. One afternoon, Phil overheard another pilot talking to someone at the Williston, North Dakota airport on the radio. Apparently, the pilot was above the clouds and could not find a hole to make it through to land.

The pilot stated that he would fly on to the Watford City airport and see if he could land there. Later in the day, Petrik once again heard the pilot calling the Eilliston airport, requesting information about landing.

Unfortunately, the conditions had not changed. Phil then contacted the Williston airport to inquire if there was someone there who could guide the pilot down. He was informed that there was not. Phil got into his own plane and flew to approximately where the plane in distress should be and he finally found him. The other pilot told Phil he had about 30 minutes of fuel left. Phil had the FAA clear the airspace and they started down through the clouds. The two planes were in the clouds for about 90 seconds. Petrik guided the other plane to the airport and returned home.

Upon his arrival in Sidney, Phil found out that the pilot had actually only one minute and 20 seconds of fuel left when he made it to the ground. Phil has already been recognized by the Federal Aviation Association for his valiant act of selflessness. His peers in Montana have all told me that this is an example of the type of man Mr. Petrik is. It is a great honor for me to share this story of valor and compassion. One man willing to risk his life for another. Please join me in offering congratulations and thanks to Phil Petrik.●

#### THE NATIONWIDE COMPANIES

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an exceptional company based in Atlanta, Georgia. The Nationwide Companies proudly established its national headquarters in Atlanta just seven years ago, and through the progressive leadership of its founder and president, Bill Case, it has succeeded in the American marketplace.

As you well know, success earns recognition, and Money Maker's Monthly recently awarded this growing company the distinction of "The Company of the Month" in the United States. The front-page feature, appropriately titled, "The Nationwide Miracle," describes the progress of Nationwide, and applauds Mr. Case for his leadership and integrity. Perhaps the most telling description of Nationwide as a uniquely American business is the conclusion in the feature that Bill Case and his company are "revolutionizing the way the American public earns and saves money."

The Money Maker's Monthly feature is a tribute to a man's vision and the ability to transfer dreams into reality. In order that others may celebrate this wonderful award and perhaps be inspired by its description of Mr. Case's realization of the "American dream," Mr. President, I ask you to join me in saluting the many successes of Bill Case and the Nationwide Companies, and ask that the Money Maker's Monthly article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.